(c) when and what price was fixed on each pack of Pyrantel Pamoate formulation of M/s. Pfizer;

(d) whether it is a fact that Tinidazole was exempted from price control despite the fact that this drug does not fulfil any exclusion criteria;

(e) what is the price being charged by M/s. Pfizer of each tablet of each strength of Tinidazole and what was the price in 1986; and

(f) what are the names of drugs being produced by M/s. Pfizer and what was the production of each during the last three years, year-wise and how many of them are outside price control and what is the price of each per unit?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) Price of Pyrantel Pamoate was fixed at Rs. 1250 per kg. under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979. Formulation prices are also based on this price of the bulk drug.

(c) Ceiling prices of two packs of formulations of M/s. Pfizer Limited were as follows on 30th November, 1984:—

S. No.	Name of bulk drug	Pack of	Leader/ceiling price (Rs.)
1.	Pyrantel Pamoate 200 Mg./Tab.	2's×20	67·82
2.	Pyrantel Pamoate oral syrup 25 mg/5ml.	8 ml Bottle	3·98

(d) Tinidazole is exempted from price control based on the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee.

(e) While the price in 1986 is not known, the price currently charged as per MIM's of May, 1990 is Rs. 6.69 for 4's strip each tablet containing 500 mg.

(f) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Lower Prices of Bulk Drugs

2235 SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during proggramme Money Matters on Delhi Doordarshan the representative of OPPI pointed out that due to market forces, the prices of number of bulk drugs are much less than the notified prices;

(b) what are the names of such bulk drugs and what are the names of producers of each;

(c) what is the notified price of each and what is the market price;

(d) whether it is a fact that the benefit of this reduction has not gone to public but is being enjoyed by formulators as unintended benefit;

(e) whether his Ministry has reduced the prices of any of the formulations based on these drugs;

(f) if so, what are the names of the formulations, their earlier and present prices; and

(g) what steps have been taken by his Ministery to verify purchase invice of formulators?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Reports/representations have received stating that Ampicillin Trihydrate, Metrenidazole Analgin, Ammoxicillin Trihydrate, Ampicillin Anhydrous, Cephalexin are being sold in the market at prices

lower than the notified prices. Market prices of drugs are not monitored by the Government and manufacturers are free to sell the bulk drugs at prices not exceeding the maximum sale prices fixed by the Government. Notified prices of the drugs in question are given below;

S. No.	Name of the bulk drugs	Notified price
		Rs./Kg.
1.	Ampicillin Trihydrate	1925·00
2.	Metronidazole	482·00
3.	Ammoxicillin Trihydrate	2660·00
4.	Analgin	280·00
5.	Ampicillin Anhydrous.	2631 00
6.	Cephalexin	4842·00

There are a large number of producers of each of these drugs.

(d) The prices of formulations are fixed based on the notified price on the market price whichever is lower. This ensures that the benefit of lower prices goes to the public.

(e) and (f) Prices of Analgin formulations have been reduced recently.

(g) BICP verifies the purchase invoices before recommending the prices of formulation of the Government

Legal opinion on set offs on Unintended benefits earned by drug Companies

2236. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has been misquoted on the issue of set off on unitended benefits earned by drug companies in various newspapers;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to clarify Goverment's stand;

(c) what is the legal position of set offs and whether any opinion has been sought from legal cell of the Ministry of law;

(d) if so, when and what was the opinion given;

(e) whether this issue has been raised in any court also;

(f) if so, what was the decision of courts on this issue;

(g) whether his Ministry has allowed set offs in any case; and

(h) if so, what are the defails thereof and what steps have been taken to reetify the same?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (f) It has already been clarified that issue of set offs and recovery into the Drug Prices Equalisation Account would be decided in accordance with the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Orders, the court judgements on the issue and the opinion obtained from the Department of Legal Affairs from time to time.

(g) and (h) The process of finalising the amounts due from the various companies is in progress. Illegitimate set offs allowed, if any, would also get reviewed in the process of finalising the amounts.